

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment filed December 19, 2007. Claims 1-24, 26, 28, 29, 34-42, 45, 47, 48, 65, 66, 83, 84 have been canceled. Claims 25, 44, 61, 79, 82 have been amended. All of the amendments have been thoroughly reviewed and entered. The previous rejections in the Office action mailed on 6/27/07 are withdrawn in view of the amendment and following examiner's amendment.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Bruce Grant on March 11, 2008.

The claims have been amended as follows:

In claim 30, --25-- was inserted in place of "29".

Claim 49. (Cancelled).

Claim 50. (Cancelled).

61. (Currently amended). A method for inducing an immune response against an antigen, which comprises

transducing an antigen presenting cell *in vitro* or *ex vivo* with a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence that encodes a chimeric protein, wherein the chimeric protein comprises a myristoylation membrane targeting region, a FK506 ligand-binding region, and a CD40 cytoplasmic polypeptide region lacking the CD40 extracellular domain;

contacting the antigen presenting cell with an antigen *ex vivo* or *in vitro*;

and

contacting the antigen presenting cell with a multimeric FK506 or FK506 analog ligand that binds to the FK506 ligand-binding region; and

contacting the antigen presenting cell with a T-cell;

whereby an immune response against the antigen is induced.

In claim 67, --61-- was inserted in place of "66".

In claim 85, --79-- was inserted in place of "84".

96. (new). The method of claim 61, wherein the antigen presenting cell is contacted with the ligand before the antigen presenting cell is contacted with the T-cell.

97. (new). The method of claim 76, wherein the antigen presenting cell is contacted with the ligand after the antigen presenting cell is administered to the subject.

Conclusion

Claims 25, 27, 30-33, 43, 44, 46, 51-64, 67-82, 85-97 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Q. Janice Li** whose telephone number is 571-272-0730. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, except every other Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Joseph Woitach** can be reached on 571-272-0739. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are **571-273-8300**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

*/Q. JANICE LI/
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